

IAIMS and the Internet

Jane L. Blumenthal, MSLS, Associate Librarian for Operations Management
Anne K. Seymour, MS, Assistant Director, Biomedical Academic Computing Center
Naomi C. Broering, MLS, MA, Director, Biomedical Academic Computing Center
and Medical Center Librarian
Georgetown University Medical Center
Washington, DC

This poster will present an overview of Georgetown University Medical Center IAIMS activities using the Internet, particularly the World Wide Web (Web). The Internet and Web are excellent tools for IAIMS projects, making it easy to integrate resources scattered on servers throughout the medical center, the Georgetown campus, and elsewhere for use in a variety of projects. Conversely, the Internet makes it easy to distribute and share ongoing medical center IAIMS projects with the rest of the world.

Dahlgren Memorial Library is responsible for the Medical Center's Internet presence and World Wide Web home page. Recognizing the need for coordination and training to successfully implement this project, the Library has organized the medical center web pages into a hierarchical structure, with major divisions such as the hospital and the medical school at the top level, and departments and divisions of each at sublevels. The supporting directory structure mirrors the logical organization of the material, allowing individual departments and divisions to take responsibility for creating their own material and keeping them up to date.

To assist medical center departments to establish an Internet presence, the Library maintains a web server with sufficient disk space to accommodate the needs of departments without their own servers as well as the Library's own web pages. A training class is offered twice a month, teaching the basics of HTML, web page design, and procedures for creating and uploading web pages onto the Dahlgren Library server. Two hundred eleven people, representing more than 20 departments, have attended one of these classes. Web pages for sixteen departments are active on the Web server, with more added weekly.

Library staff represent the IAIMS Management Committee at the GUiDe (Georgetown University information delivered electronically) Steering Committee meetings. GUiDe coordinates information policy and Web development for the three campus (Law, Medicine, University). In addition to policy discussions, GUiDe provides visibility for the medical center's web pages throughout the university.

The Library has created its own home page, with an emphasis on information resources. The databases of the Knowledge Network are integrated with Web pages, gopher, telnet and ftp access, and e-mail. Internet resources are organized by subject, with responsibility for identifying resources and adding them to the Web pages shared with subject specialists from the academic and clinical departments of the medical center.

Other IAIMS related projects include the Internet Connection Program, which provides Internet access to four hospitals affiliated with the medical center: Georgetown, Arlington, DC General, and the VA Medical Center. In addition to the wiring and network access, library staff provided assistance setting up and configuring the workstations and training users.

The IAIMS Committee has been expanded to include departments and units that are working with the library to put up web pages and to link resources on the Internet. Their home pages and resources will be included in the poster. A few are: Office of the Executive Vice President, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, Department of Pediatrics, Department of Family Medicine, Dean of Research and Graduate Education, Diabetes Research & Education Program, and Lombardi Cancer Center.